

Message Text

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SUBJECT: TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR NNSC

1. UNC ARMISTICE AFFAIRS DIVISION (AAD) HAS ASKED US TO DETERMINE WHAT AGREEMENTS ARE IN EFFECT BETWEEN THE USG AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF SWITZERLAND AND SWEDEN CONCERNING TRAVEL AND TRAVEL-CONNECTED EXPENSES FOR SWISS AND SWEDISH DELEGATIONS TO THE NEUTRAL NATIONS SUPERVISORY COMMISSION (NNSC) OF THE MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION. A RECENT SWITCH IN FUNDING FROM U.S. NAVY TO ARMY AUTHORITY HAS BROUGHT TO LIGHT SOME INCONSISTENCY IN EXISTING ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS GOVERNING USG TRAVEL FUNDING FOR THE TWO NATIONS' DELEGATIONS. INCONSISTENCY MAY BE RESULT OF SOME AGREEMENT OF WHICH WE ARE NOT AWARE.

2. IN PARA 6 OF THE AGREEMENT CONCERNING LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AND EXPENSES OF...THE NEUTRAL NATIONS SUPERVISORY COMMISSION WHICH WAS APPROVED AT THE 27TH MAC MEETING ON OCTOBER 31, 1953 THE UNC AGREED TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AND "EXPENSES" OF THE SWISS AND SWEDISH NNSC CONTINGENTS. ALSO, UNC HAS OBTAINED FROM SWEDISH FILES A COPY OF A JANUARY 4, 1954 STATE DEPARTMENT NOTE TO THE SWEDISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON IN WHICH THE DEPARTMENT STATES THAT THE UNC WILL BEAR ALL LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AND EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE SWEDISH MEMBERS OF THE NEUTRAL NATIONS SUPERVISORY COMMISSION, AND THAT IT

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IS THE INTENT OF THE USG TO PROVIDE "MATS" (MAC) TRANSPORTATION

TO AND FROM KOREA FOR THE SWEDISH TEAM. THE NOTE FURTHER STATES THAT IF "MATS" (MAC) TRANSPORT IS AVAILABLE AND IF THE SWEDISH MEMBERS DECIDE TO USE COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION THE USG CANNOT ASSUME THESE TRAVEL EXPENSES.

3. EXISTING UNC REGULATIONS AUTHORIZE USG TRAVEL FUNDING FOR THE SWISS DELEGATION VIA A COMBINATION OF MAC AND COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT. HOWEVER, THESE REGULATIONS STIPULATE THAT THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT WILL PAY TRAVEL COSTS FOR ITS DELEGATION BETWEEN SWEDEN AND TOKYO.

4. NEITHER UNC NOR EMBASSY FILES CONTAIN INFORMATION AS TO REASON FOR DIFFERENCE IN TRAVEL REGULATIONS FOR TWO DELEGATIONS. MOST LIKELY EXPLANATION IS THAT HISTORICALLY SWEDES HAVE CHOSEN TO COME TO KOREA BY SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES, THUS FORFEITING US FUNDING; THIS EVENTUALLY MAY HAVE RESULTED IN A CHANGE IN TRAVEL REGULATIONS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST DEPARTMENT REVIEW FILES AND MAKE DETERMINATION AS TO CURRENT USG OBLIGATIONS TO SWISS AND SWEDISH NNSC DELEGATIONS FOR TRAVEL AND TRAVEL CONNECTED EXPENSES.
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